

in of the contents, or such that a third icon is displayed corresponding to the data in the event that the rights information indicates permission of moving of the contents, or such that a fourth icon is displayed corresponding to the data in the event that the rights information indicates permission of check-in of the contents.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, an information processing method comprises: a reading control step for controlling reading out, from the recording medium, data relating to the contents and rights information corresponding to the contents; and a display control step for controlling display such that a first icon is displayed corresponding to the data, in the event that the rights information indicates permission of importing of the contents.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, a program in a program storing medium comprises: code for a reading control step for controlling reading out, from the recording medium, data relating to the contents and rights information corresponding to the contents; and code for a display control step for controlling display such that a first icon is displayed corresponding to the data, in the event that the rights information indicates permission of importing of the contents.

With the information processing apparatus according to

the first aspect, the information processing method according to the second aspect, and the program storing medium according to the third aspect, reading of data relating to contents and rights information corresponding to contents from a recording medium is controlled, and in the event that the rights information indicates permission to import contents, display is controlled so as to display a first icon, corresponding to the data.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of the contents data managing system according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram describing the configuration of the personal computer 1;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram describing the functions of the personal computer 1;

Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating an example of rights information stored in the memory card 9;

Fig. 5 is a diagram illustrating importing;

Fig. 6 is a diagram illustrating moving;

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating an example of rights information recorded in the personal computer 1;

Fig. 8 is a diagram describing an icon corresponding to rights information;

Fig. 9 is another diagram describing an icon corresponding to rights information; and

Fig. 10 is a flowchart describing the processing for displaying an icon with the GUI unit 101.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of the contents data managing system according to the present invention. A persona computer 1 is connected to a network 2 comprising a Local Area Network, the Internet, or the like. The personal computer 1 takes music data received from an EMD (Electrical Music Distribution) server 3 or read from a CD (Compact Disk) (such music data will hereafter be referred to as "contents") and either records the contents as such, or converts the contents into a predetermined encoded format (e.g., ATRAC3 (Registered Trademark)) and also encrypts the contents with an encrypting format such as DES (Data Encryption Standard) and then records the contents.

The personal computer 1 records rights information indicating usage conditions of the contents, corresponding to the contents recorded in plaintext or as enciphered data.

The rights information indicates, for example, the number of portable devices (hereafter also referred to as simply "PD") which can simultaneously use the contents corresponding to the rights information (the number of PDs